**Pre-Reading Questions & Activities**

1. **Connect to the characters:** 
   1. Do you have any older siblings? What is your relationship to them?
   2. If something happened to both your parents, would you and your siblings be able to stay together? If you don’t have any siblings, what would happen to you? What sacrifices would you (and your siblings) have to make?
   3. What makes some young people turn to crime? What can we do to turn them around?
2. **Connect to the setting:** Thinking about the setting of a book gives the reader focus for the story. This story is set in New York City. What do you picture and feel when you think of New York City? Web your ideas about life in New York City. Think about your personal experiences, and what you know from TV shows, the news, movies or song lyrics.

